Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

Volume 4, Issue 2
February 2024

Tight Lines Newsletter

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www.arlingtonanglers.com

Key Dates

Club Meetings
Feb 20
Mar 19

R.M. Flea Market Tackle Donations at Feb meeting

R.M. Flea Market
Mar 2

Outings
Wisc River/Dells
Mar 24 – 27
LaSalle Lake
Early April tbd

President's Note:

Thanks to all the hearty souls that braved sub zero temps to attend the Jan meeting. The crowd was great as was the Crappie Professor.

The Chicagoland Fishing Show was very productive. We talked to a lot of anglers, signed up over 100 new newsletter subscribers & a few new members. Thanks to the members that volunteered to work the booth!

The Rolling Meadows Fishing Flea Market is coming up on March 2. We still need some product for our table. We'll be collecting final donations at the Feb meeting. See page 5 for what we're looking for.

See page 6 for a feature on Dave McCoy and the H2H Fishing League.

We still have members that have yet to renew for 2024. Don't forget all paid by the Feb meeting will be entered to win 1 of 25 free annual Midwest Outdoors subscriptions.

New member profiles continue this month on pgs 9/10. Introduce yourself and welcome them when you see them.

We are expecting a huge turnout this month, including a lot of guests we invited at the show. Be sure to get to the meeting early to help us process the crowd and to find a good seat. Plus you won't want to miss our speaker or a chance to win the raffle grand prize.

See you all at the meeting on the 20th!

Chris Popp - President

This Month's Speaker

Excitement builds for open water anglers as ice begins to melt and the thought of finally breaking out their months dormant fishing gear starts to become a reality. Walleye chasers especially relish this time as Spring runs commence.

Few know the ins and outs of successfully catching ole marble eyes than Isaac Lakich, who has made a big name for himself on several walleye tourney circuits. We are lucky this month to have a chance to hear and learn from such an accomplished walleye angler.

This Month's Speaker

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

Visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Isaac Lakich

Targeting Big Walleye in the Spring

Isaac Lakich is a professional walleye tournament angler and multispecies guide. After fishing his entire life and competitively for roughly10 years, Isaac has earned multiple Top 10 finishes on a multitude of tournament circuits, with 5 victories and an Angler of the Year award. Please help me in welcoming Isaac to the Club tonight!

Club Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan.- Nov.	
Poplar Creek Banquets **2354 W. Higgins Rd.** **Hoffman Estates, IL 60169**	**Guests Welcome** **Fee $3 members | $8 non** **6:30 PM Start**

February Raffle Grand Prize – St. Croix Rod

Our February raffle Grand Prize will be a St. Croix Avid Series spinning rod valued at $225!

The model up for grabs this month is a 6'6" Medium/Light with Fast action. This highly sensitive rod is perfect for finesse techniques, vertical jigging, and tossing light lures. The added "feel" will make a huge difference in bite detection and surely make you a more successful fisherman.

Five awesome consolation prizes worth another $175 will also be included in the raffle to give you more chances to win big!

Tickets are 1 for $5 or 3 for $10.

Attend the Feb meeting for your chance to win a St. Croix Avid rod!

Steve's Fishing Report

By: Steve Jung

Shore ice conditions have become unsafe over the last few days with many smaller ponds/lakes becoming ice free. Air temps will vary from the 30's to the 50's during the day which will probably only worsen ice conditions. Proceed with caution if you are venturing out on the ice.

Lake Front:
Perch decent at the 87th and 89th St. slips. Fatheads and Rosie Reds or soft plastics on a drop shot are working.

Chain O'Lakes: Not much going on. Check access conditions at fowwaterways.com.

Fox River:
This is an option for walleyes, smallmouth, white bass and catfish. Especially if you want to wet a line and try out that new rod/reel you got at Christmas. Minnows would be a great option, but don't rule out using jigs with tubes or ned rigs.

Illinois River:
Some walleyes are being caught near Morris with jigs on current breaks.

Mazonia/Braidwood:
Lake is open but it's open water. Hours are 6 am to sunset.

LaSalle Lake:
Opens March 15

Northern Wisconsin:
Long cold nights offset the few daytime hours above freezing temperatures to keep enough decent ice. Not safe for vehicles. Always check conditions locally to remain safe.

If going up there try for pike around green weeds that hold perch in 4' – 12'. Crappies can be good in 10–12' fow on waxies and small plastics. Largemouth bass can be had on tip-ups with medium shiners. Walleyes are only fair on tip ups with suckers.

Last Month's Speaker Tips By Brian O'Connor

Professional crappie guide Jim Kopjo begins his Spring season with trips down to Mississippi and Arkansas in March, then makes his way northward to Shelbyville by late April around the time the Arlington Anglers are there. Evergreen Lake, Heidecke and Shabbona follow as additional favorite lakes for Jim to target in the Spring. These trips are all scripted to follow seasonal weather patterns as "The Crappie Professor" tries to hit various bodies of water at the optimal water temps.

62-68 degrees are the perfect water surface temperatures to target spawning crappie. Drive around to find the beds and then fish the shallow banks nearby during pre-spawn and deeper water on the other side of the beds during post-spawn windows. This will likely bring you success, as they will always be positioned near their beds during this Spring timeframe.

In the dog days of summer trolling is effective when fish are spread out and you are trying to locate them. Slip-bobbers and corking are more effective techniques to utilize once you find the schools.

The two latter techniques will allow you to slow down and pick apart either a productive piece of cover or even a deeper basin with fan casting.

January Raffle Winners

In addition to the door prize raffle all attendees have a 1 in 4 chance to win we also hold an optional raffle for bigger prizes.

Our January grand prize was a Grandt All American Series fishing rod valued at $225, donated by owner Jim Grandt! Unique this time, the thrilled winner, Larry Liebert, was able to select his prize in the Grandt Rod booth at the Chicagoland Fishing show, and have it customized with his name on it. Pictured left is winner Liebert and Jim Grandt. Thanks Jim!

The 5 consolation prize winners, pictured below in order, were John DeVae (3 Rippin' Raps), John Gacki (Hand crank lantern), Robbie Henderson (Knife set), Bob Johnson (Barska X-Trail 10x50 binoculars) and Rich Sutton (55 pc survival kit).

Chicagoland Fishing Show Report

The Chicagoland Fishing, Travel and Outdoor Show was recently held at Schaumburg Convention Center from January 25-28. The Arlington Anglers once again had a booth to promote the benefits of our club.

The show itself was very well attended with aisle traffic continuous, especially on Saturday when it was difficult to actually stop at a booth with the rush of visitors pushing you along from behind.

Most of the standard exhibitors where there again along with a number of new entrants trying to hawk their wares. Support from the industry appears to remain strong.

The speaker lineup, both at the Hawg Trough and the Seminar Room, was outstanding. A wide variety of topics covering different technique and species offered something for everyone.

The show was a big success as we introduced the club to hundreds of people, signed up well over a 100 new newsletter subscribers and even picked up a few new members on the spot.

Now we'll see the true effects of our promotion as dozens of the visitors vowed to give us a try.

Next Show: Rolling Meadows Flea Market

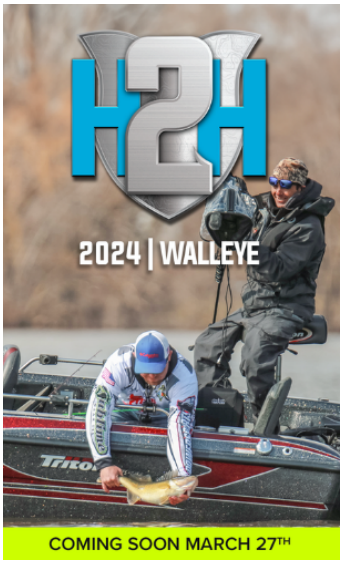
Our second and final show will be the Rolling Meadows Fishing Flea Market to be held March 4 from 8 am to 1 at the Rolling Meadows High School.

The show is actually one of the largest fishing tackle and outdoor gear swap meets in the entire Chicagoland. This, along with other swap meets in the area, is an excellent place to get great deals on some new, gently used, or classic baits, rods, reels, and other fishing related gear.

While our focus is to sell tackle for our general fund we do pick up more news subscribers and a couple new members.

Regarding tackle to be sold, this is last call for donations to be collected at the February meeting. We need the used lures, jigs, and terminal tackle you no longer use or want. Because of space limitations we don't need any more rods, reels or empty tackle boxes. Please hold these for next year's sale.

Member Featured On New Outdoor Channel



McCoy

Boeger

There is a relatively new streaming outdoor channel called PHYX.TV. It is primarily a platform for live streaming with six categories of shows: Guns and Gear, Outdoors, Shopping, Podcasts, The National Professional Fishing League, and Head2Head Fishing. More on that last one in a minute.

There is free live event coverage, on demand content, an app with more features, and an optional paid service for commercial free viewing. More information can be found on their website & on their Facebook page.

Of most interest to us is the Head2head Walleye Fishing League in which Arlington Anglers member Dave McCoy and past club speaker Derek Boeger will be teaming up as the only Illinois entrants selected to compete head to head against 9 other teams from Wisconsin. As a nod to their likely nickname, the team will go by the "Fabulous Illinois Boys" (FIBS). The season consists of a round robin series of individual matches spread over the Spring and Summer, on several different bodies of water.

Dave explains the format:
"Each match consists of as many walleyes over 1 pound that the team catches. Every fish adds to the daily weight. At the end of each match, the teams will get a "W" or "L" in the standings. At the end of the season the top eight teams will be seeded and advance to the finals in August. The two day playoffs will have four televised matches Saturday morning with the four winners advancing to the semis that afternoon. Finally, those two winners will advance to the Sunday championship."

What's unique is we can follow Dave and Derek, and all the other tourney action live as it happens.

McCoy explains further: "Matches will be every other Wednesday starting on March 27 through to August. We will have a cameraman in the boat with a live feed for the entire four hour match. Derek and I will be wearing microphones so that you can hear our discussions, choices, and the entire fishing day. The phyx.tv format will give the viewer a live chat option so you can ask us questions and interact with us live during the match. You can also watch our feed all day, or switch back and forth to other matches or even watch the studio narrators view of the day and commentate on the action.

The series will also show on Youtube and Facebook as well, but at the end of each day replays will only be available on phyx.tv. The phyx.tv service is free, but you have to sign in for an account. Some days we fish the morning session, and other days our matches will be in the afternoon. You can find the actual dates and times of our matches on the Head2Head Facebook page."

While Dave and Derek would appreciate your support and viewing during their journey they also look forward to sharing their experience with you. They also encourage you to check out the phyx.tv site as it has a lot of archived content, fishing shows, guide shows, and other content, including all of the previous years of Head 2 Head competition. So, sign up for a free account and follow the action.

Good luck Dave and Derek. We'll be rooting for you!

2024 Membership Dues Being Collected

Membership dues are the lifeblood of any organization. Our club is no different than any other. These fees pay for a majority of our operations.

Dues for the 2024 season are now being collected. We are happy to announce that, in spite of inflation, we are holding the family membership to $40. This is only possible because our growing membership helps spread the costs of running the club among more members.

Also, more members results in more meeting door fees and raffle ticket sales, both critical to balance the budget.

This year looks to be another great one. With an outstanding lineup of speakers, more outings, great raffle prizes, and more networking opportunities, you won't want to miss out. Even if you weren't very active in 2023, it's still a bargain to stay involved with the club.

Please get your dues in now. Everyone paid by the February meeting will be entered to win one of 25 subscriptions to the Midwest Outdoors Magazine we will raffle off in early March.

Instructions for payment options can be found on pg 13.

Newsletter Delivery Update

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

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Volume 4, Issue 1
January 2024

www.arlingtonanglers.com

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Key Dates

Club Meetings
Monday Jan 15
Feb 20
Mar 19

R.M. Flea Market Tackle Donations Jan/Feb meetings

Chicagoland Fishing Show Jan 25-28

Outings
Jan 23
Fox Chain Ice

President's Note:

To start, let me share this note: Urgent! - Our first meeting of '24 has been changed to Monday January 15th due to a space scheduling conflict. Still at 6:30.

I know it may be inconvenient to some but it can't be helped. I hope you can all still make it. We'll return to 3rd Tuesdays in February.

Ahh, the beginning of a new year. I'm both excited and nervous at the same time. We had tremendous growth in membership, activity, and participation in 2023. Can we continue that trend in 2024? I hope so. Only time will tell. Your officers are working hard to make it a worthwhile experience for you.

And even if you weren't that active in 2023 its still a bargain to stay involved. Maybe this is your year!

There's lots of info in this issue, both reviewing recent events and informing of future developments. So take a few minutes to read through it. The January meeting raffle prizes are highlighted, Fish Contest & AOY results are published, info on outings and shows are shared, and new member profiles begin again on pg 9. Dues are now being collected and tackle & gear donations are needed. Details on pg 6.

I hope to see you all return to the fold this year. It's sure to be a great one. Don't miss out on the fun. C'mon back!

Chris Popp - President

This Month's Speaker

If you are like most anglers in January you might be sitting on the couch randomly watching fishing videos or waiting for the outdoors expos to begin. Or perhaps looking at your pile of gear and lament that you should do something to get organized. But top fisherman use the down time to prepare in earnest for the season. This includes not only gear maintenance but planning on when, where, and how to fish throughout the year. The Crappie Professor, Jim Kopjo, will share how he gets ready for success with a solid strategy.

Arlington Anglers Newsletter 1

Ever since we changed the format of our newsletter over 3 years ago, to the one you are reading now, we've received great feedback.

By adding a President's Note, speaker announcement, raffle grand prize highlight and previous month's winners, outing reports, community outreach reports, general news, and big fish of the month, we've been able to inform, educate, and entertain not only the members but all our other non-member subscribers much better. Many of you have responded in an extremely positive way.

With our subscriber list now close to 1200 delivering the newsletter the old way is getting more difficult. We are researching the use of an email service that will allow us to present an improved and more aesthetic pleasing look to the newsletter email.

Keep an eye out for the change in the months ahead.

Big Fish of the Month

Big Fish of the Month goes to Jason Jankowski for this exceptional 14.5" crappie.

Jason was ice fishing (when there was ice!) on a private pond near Tomah WI when his perseverance dealing with the elements finally paid off.

Honorable Mention #1

First Honorable Mention goes to Gar Powell for this sweet 17.5 inch largemouth bass. Gar was recently fishing Florida's Lake Harris in cool conditions with wife Kristie and member Greg Michela when this nice bucket mouth took his bait.

Kid Fish of the Month

Kid Fish of the Month goes to no one this month as we didn't have anyone submit a picture. This is a stock photo.

But look at the expression on these kids. Wouldn't you like to see one of your young loved ones with that look on their face highlighted here?

Please share your passion for fishing with a child. Whether it's a relative, a friend, or a neighbor, submit a picture when you do!

Honorable Mention #2

Second Honorable Mention goes to Dave McCoy for this nice keeper walleye caught on the Wisconsin River near the Dells. It came on what else? A Binks spoon. Not a monster but one of the very few entries this month.

Getting to Know New 2024 Club Members

Phil Fors resides in West Chicago. He is an unfortunate widower but has 3 boys and 5 grandkids to keep him busy. Phil retired a while ago after 53 years running Phil's Home Appliance Repair Service.

Phil has a 2020 Warrior 1890 Tiller with a 90 HP Merc that he keeps on a trailer for quick and easy transport for when the need or desire arises.

Phil mainly fishes for walleye, crappie, bluegill and perch.

Phil joined the club to meet other anglers and to expand his ability to get out and try different bodies of water.

Ivan Zoot hails from Buffalo Grove where he lives with his wife. He has 2 grown boys and one new granddaughter.

Ivan owns his own business. He's a speaker/consultant, small business developer, and sales trainer. And he's also an author with his 15th book published this month!

Ivan doesn't have a boat.

Ivan mostly shore fishes local waters in Lake County and also all over the US when travelling for work. He can't pass up an enticing industrial park pond.

Ivan likes fishing for bass and bluegills. He does some fly fishing for smallmouth on the Des Plaines River.

Ivan joined to hang out with other enthusiasts and learn from other experienced anglers.

Russell Ewert lives in Chicago with his wife and daughter, both who support his fishing excursions but have no interest in participating. He is a working man and with a 10 year old figures he still may be doing so forever!

Russell has a boat, of sorts. It's a Sea Eagle 285 which is like an inflateable row boat. He can attach his trolling motor and fish small lakes comfortably.

He likes fishing for all species. He doesn't play favorites.

Russell joined the club to learn more about fishing and be around others that are passionate about the sport.

More New 2024 Member Profiles

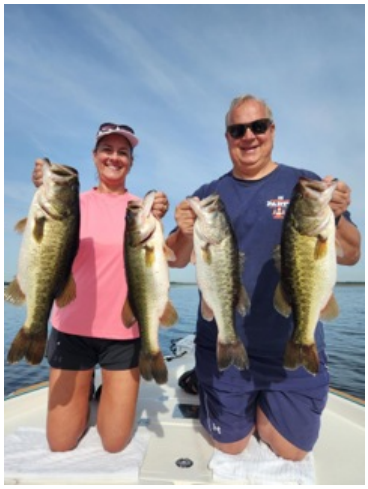
Alvin Mann lives in Inverness with his wife Heather and their two teenage sons.

Alvin says he's at the tail end of a 30 year career working in information technology as a Principal Architect at Microsoft.

Alvin doesn't have a boat. He considers himself an urban ponder hopper.

Alvin mostly fishes for what it biting, but he does enjoy targeting smallmouth and toothy critters on the Fox River. He also wanders the suburbs looking for crappie and largemouth bass.

Alvin joined the club after seeing us at our picnic at Harper. We looked like a good crew to hang with.



Bob and Eileen Rice live in Des Plaines. They also have a place in Lake Geneva. They have two adult children. Bob works for Kemper as a VP of IT. Eileen is a First Grade school teacher.

The Rice's have 2 boats, a 2021 Lund Impact with 150 HP they keep in Lake Geneva. They also have a 2006 18" Tracker Targa they store at Table Rock Lake near Branson MO.

Bob and Eileen love to fish all over and don't mind traveling. They have annual licenses in 5 states (IL, WI, MO, IN, FL). Bass and walleye are their favorite species to chase.

They joined the club after attending a meeting in 2023. The number of activities and outings was a major draw. Plus the meetings were easy to get to from Des Plaines.

Fun Fact: Eileen was inducted into the Illinois Conservation Foundation Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2023 for her work teaching kids about fish and fishing.

Sponsor Page - Please support those that support us

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Member Discount Partners

Being a member of the Arlington Anglers comes with many benefits. Following is a list of sponsors that offer discounts to our members with their membership card. Be aware, some manufacturers do not allow discounts by their dealers. Also, discount percentages could change at any time, at our partner's discretion.

GRANDT RODS
GRANDT INDUSTRIES INC.,
PO box 772 Arlington Heights, IL. 60006
847-577-0848 Jim Grandt
Website: grandtrods.com
Discount: 20% off internet rod prices, plus free hat (while in stock). Free pickup in Arlington Heights.
Also, any Pflueger reel in stock can be purchased to create a combo at $15 off internet retail price.
(Must show membership card at pickup).

ANGLERS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES
1272 E. Dundee Rd. Palatine IL 60074
847-991-3200
Website: FishinGurus.com
Discount: 10% on tackle & bait

LEE'S BAIT AND TACKLE (2 Locations)
1010 East Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-593-6424
1400 W. Army Trail Rd., Carol Stream, IL. 60188
630-830-5337
Website: Leesglobaltackle.com
Discount: 10% min. on tackle, depending on mfg.

Fish Tech
5802 Dempster St. Morton Grove IL 60053
847-966-5900
Website: fishtechmg.com
Discount: 10% off tackle and bait

LiveBaitFishingTackle.com
Online or 630-235-2162
Discount: 15% off floats, line, tackle, rods, reels & bait.
Use code "arlington" at checkout. Also, 15% off lessons, classes, and guiding at Chicagofishingschool.com.

Battery Service Corporation
410 S. Evergreen St. Bensenville, IL. 60106
630-595-4244
Website: batteryservice.com
Discount: Dealer prices with card

Catch Co.
www.catchco.com
Discount Site: www.shopkarls.com
Discount: $10 off a minimum $25 purchase
Use Promo code ARLANG10

M&G Propeller
217 Sola Dr. Gilberts, IL 60136
847-551-9281
Discount: 10% off prop repair services

Renew Your Membership or Join The Club

Yearly dues are the financial life-blood of our club. They pay our speakers, insurance, shows, pizza party, and other operating expenses. Presently, our annual family membership is $40.00. Please renew or join today!

We've now added Zelle quick pay to our options: (arlangfc19@gmail.com). So, 3 ways to pay: (1)Zelle, (2)at a meeting, or (3)check by mail. New members - use the form below or visit our "Join Our Club" web page.

Bring checks made out to "Arlington Anglers" to a meeting or mail to:

Arlington Anglers
C/O Rich Sutton
719 W. Catino St.
Arlington Hts., IL 60005

We're on the Web!

www.arlingtonanglers.com

or

QR Code (to the right)

or

FACEBOOK at: Arlington Anglers

Renewing members need only provide Date and Name.

Fill out completely and mail with your check.

Today's Date: ___/___/____

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Address: _____

City: _____State: __ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/____

Email Address: _____